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CIA - Cambodia

The question of Cambodia before and after

My War with
the C.I.A.

By Norodom Sihanouk
and Wilfred Burchett

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Whatever happens in Cambodia after the ceasefire in Vietnam, the revelations of what went before make curious reading. Prince Sihanouk, who was overthrown as head of state in Cambodia in March, 1970, makes no bones of the fact that Viet Cong and Vietnamese troops and supplies were on Cambodian soil for years before that.

Any mention of this abroad during those years drew hot denials. In 1968 and 1969 *The Times* printed three letters from the Chargé d'Affaires at the Cambodian Embassy in London saying that such allegations were "baseless" and a "slander". Prince Sihanouk, in his story as related to Wilfred Burchett, a sympathetic Australian journalist, says that these forces "did us no harm", and "for years we had officially winked at their presence".

The buoyant Prince's hatred of the United States, and particularly of the CIA which he blames for his misfortunes, stands out nakedly. So does his resentment of the Soviet Union, which, he says, still recognizes the government that overthrew him and sends medical and surgical equipment for the men whom he is fighting. Sihanouk formed a rival "government" in Peking.

The question who will be master in Cambodia now is more crucial than ever. Prince Sihanouk claims that by September, 1971, his resistance forces were administering four-fifths of the country, and the only reason they did not "strangle" Phnom Penh was that they did not want their compatriots to starve. Now he says he will fight on; a climax one way or the other should be at hand.

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